UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/11
6 January 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 3 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you details of acts of aggression perpetrated against the Sudanese territory and people by Eritrea (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council, and have it circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih ERWA
Permanent Representative

97-00303 (E) 060197 060197 070197

/...

Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Information concerning acts of aggression committed by Eritrea in the Abu Qamal, Madisissah, Tuqan, Hamashkurayb, Aruma, Al-Qarda and Awwad regions of east Sudan between 15 October and 31 December 1996

On 15 October 1996, terrorist elements based in Eritrea infiltrated into Sudanese territory and detonated two anti-vehicle mines composed of plastic explosives along a low wall bordering the Qum road (15 kilometres north of Aruma), in an attempt to destroy one of the small bridges on the road. The bridge was damaged, and repair work is in progress.

On 30 October 1996, at 0830 hours, Eritrean soldiers accompanied by terrorist elements supported by Eritrea attacked Sudanese soldiers in the Tuqan region, wounding three of them. The Sudanese soldiers were obliged to repel the attack, and as a result one of the assailants was killed and seven others wounded.

On 15 November 1996, at 1800 hours, terrorist elements supported by Eritrea attacked Sudanese forces in the Madisissah region. They fought in the Khawr Abu Jamus area between Qarqaf and Madisissah. One of the assailants was killed.

On 19 November 1996, between 1500 and 1930 hours, Eritrean forces bombarded the Akit region (10 kilometres east of Abu Qamal) with rocket launchers and 82- and 120-millimetre mortar shells.

On 24 November 1996, terrorist elements accompanied by Eritrean soldiers infiltrated into Sudanese territory, penetrating as far as the village of Awwad, where they attacked defenceless civilians, destroying their homes, property and vehicles. Sudanese forces pursued the aggressors, and established that they had taken refuge in Eritrea.

On 1 December 1996, Eritrean soldiers and terrorist elements supported by Eritrea massed at the Sudan's eastern border. Twenty-three military vehicles transported troops as far as the Hamayid region (east of Tuqan) with a view to launching an attack against the Sudanese region of Tuqan. Troops had also been massed in the Kawa, Dayrah and Shaqlubah regions, near Bastaf, with the aim of launching military operations in the Sudanese region of Tamkit. Further, Eritrean soldiers regrouped near Hamashkurayb with a view to cutting off the main road. Lastly, Eritrean forces massed near Al-Ayq'al forest, not far from Aruma, in order to undertake other operations in the region.

On 14 December 1996, an anti-vehicle mine planted by Eritrean forces exploded under a civilian lorry in the Tuqan region, destroying the vehicle and wounding its occupants.

On 15 December 1996, an element of the self-styled "Coalition Forces" terrorist group, based in Eritrea, surrendered to Sudanese forces in the Madississah region.

On 15 December 1996, Sudanese forces removed an anti-vehicle mine that Eritrean forces had planted 1,900 metres from Khawr Umly, near the town of Hamashkurayb.

On 23 December 1996, Sudanese forces arrested a member of the terrorist group supported by Eritrea. He was wearing a second lieutenant's uniform and was armed with a Kalashnikov and grenades. He was apprehended as he crossed the border, heading towards the region situated between Omly and Khawr Dalib.

On 24 December 1996, there were clashes in the region of Maman (east of Tuqan) between Eritrean soldiers, who were accompanied by terrorist elements, and Sudanese forces, which pursued the Eritreans as far as the border.

On 27 December 1996, a Sudanese patrol came under shellfire in the Al-Qardah region. The projectiles came from the Tabab Galal region in Eritrea.

On 28 December 1996, at 1430 hours, two Eritrean battalions accompanied by terrorist elements supported by Eritrea attacked the Rabsam region, near the town of Hamashkurayb. Clashes with the two Sudanese companies stationed in the region ensued. The attack resulted in 5 dead, 15 wounded, including 1 officer, and 7 missing on the Sudanese side, not to mention vast material losses. The Eritrean forces seized a number of vehicles and pieces of equipment.

On 29 December 1996, two Sudanese army helicopters were carrying out a routine patrol in the Sudanese region of Rabsam near the town of Hamashkurayb when SAM-7 anti-aircraft missiles were fired in their direction from the Eritrean region of Awwad. One helicopter was shot down. Its crew perished.[a]

Notes

[a] See S/1997/2.